

U.S. Serial No. 09/462,845

Sub B3 *a2*
9. An expression vector comprising nucleic acid encoding SP1.

Sub B7
a3
11. A method for the production of a heterologous protein in a *Bacillus* host cell comprising the steps of
(a) obtaining a *Bacillus* host cell comprising nucleic acid encoding said heterologous protein wherein said host cell contains a mutation or deletion in the gene encoding serine protease 1;
(b) growing said *Bacillus* host cell under conditions suitable for the expression of said heterologous protein.

Please insert new claims 17-21.

R126 *16*
14. (New) The method of Claim 11 wherein said *Bacillus* cell is selected from the group consisting of *Bacillus subtilis*, *B. licheniformis*, *B. lentus*, *B. brevis*, *B. stearothermophilus*, *B. alkalophilus*, *B. amyloliquefaciens*, *B. coagulans*, *B. circulans*, *B. lautus* and *Bacillus thuringiensis*.

Sub B8 *17* *16*
15. (New) The method of Claim 17 wherein said *Bacillus* host cell further comprises a mutation or deletion in at least one of the genes encoding apr, npr, epr, wpr and mrp.

a4 *18*
16. (New) A gram-positive microorganism having a mutation or deletion in the gene encoding serine protease 1.

19 *18*
17. (New) The microorganism of Claim 1 or 16 further comprising a mutation or deletion in at least one of the genes encoding apr, npr, epr, wpr and mrp.

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18. (New) A cleaning composition comprising SP1.

Thus, the claims as currently presented and under consideration, are presented below for the Examiner's convenience and to comply with 37 CFR §1.121:

1. (Amended) A gram-positive microorganism having a mutation or deletion of part or all of the gene encoding SP1 said mutation or deletion resulting in the inactivation of the SP1 proteolytic activity.

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2. The gram-positive microorganism according to Claim 1 that is a member of the family *Bacillus*.

3. The microorganism according to Claim 2 wherein the member is selected from the group consisting of *B. licheniformis*, *B. lentus*, *B. brevis*, *B. stearothermophilus*, *B. alkalophilus*, *B. amyloliquefaciens*, *B. coagulans*, *B. circulans*, *B. lautus* and *Bacillus thuringiensis*.

4. The microorganism of Claim 1 wherein said microorganism is capable of expressing a heterologous protein.

5. The microorganism of Claim 4 wherein said heterologous protein is selected from the group consisting of hormone, enzyme, growth factor and cytokine.

6. The microorganism of Claim 5 wherein said heterologous protein is an enzyme.

7. The microorganism of Claim 6 wherein said enzyme is selected from the group consisting of a proteases, carbohydrases, and lipases; isomerases such as racemases, epimerases, tautomerases, or mutases; transferases, kinases and phosphatases.

9. (Amended) An expression vector comprising nucleic acid encoding SP1.

10. A host cell comprising an expression vector according to Claim 9

11. (Amended) A method for the production of a heterologous protein in a *Bacillus* host cell comprising the steps of

(a) obtaining a *Bacillus* host cell comprising nucleic acid encoding said heterologous protein wherein said host cell contains a mutation or deletion in the gene encoding serine protease 1;

(b) growing said *Bacillus* host cell under conditions suitable for the expression of said heterologous protein.

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Rule 126

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~~17~~. (New) The method of Claim 11 wherein said *Bacillus* cell is selected from the group consisting of *Bacillus subtilis*, *B. licheniformis*, *B. lentus*, *B. brevis*, *B. stearothermophilus*, *B. alkalophilus*, *B. amyloliquefaciens*, *B. coagulans*, *B. circulans*, *B. lautus* and *Bacillus thuringiensis*.

¹⁷
~~18~~. (New) The method of Claim ¹⁶~~17~~ wherein said *Bacillus* host cell further comprises a mutation or deletion in at least one of the genes encoding apr, npr, epr, wpr and mrp.

¹⁸
~~19~~. (New) A gram-positive microorganism having at mutation or deletion in the gene encoding serine protease 1.

¹⁹
~~20~~. (New) The microorganism of Claim ¹⁸~~19~~ further comprising a mutation or deletion in at least one of the genes encoding apr, npr, epr, wpr and mrp.

²⁰
~~21~~. (New) A cleaning composition comprising SP1.